

Message Text

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SUBJ: VENEZUELA'S NEW COMMERCIAL POLICY

1. VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN TRADE POLICY HAS BEEN ENUNCIATED
BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE
IN ITS FIRST SEMINAR OF FOREIGN TRADE FOR ECONOMIC
EDITORS, WHICH HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE IN CARACAS FOR
THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS.

2. THE ESSENCE OF VENEZUELA'S NEW TRADE POLICY IS THAT
BILATERAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS ARE BECOMING MULTILATERAL.
THIS CHANGE STEMS FROM VENEZUELA'S NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND MULTINATIONAL SUBREGIONS OF
THE WORLD. IN ADDITION TO ITS TRADITIONAL COMMERCIAL TIES
WITH THE US, CANADA AND WESTERN EUROPE, VENEZUELA IS
DEVELOPING NEW ONES WITH JAPAN, AFRICA AND MEMBERS
OF THE SOCIALIST BLOCS.

3. DARIO BAUDER, ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT OF ICE,
DESCRIBED THE EVOLUTION OF US VENEZUELA COMMERCIAL
RELATIONS STARTING WITH THE RECIPROCAL TRADE
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AGREEMENT OF 1939 ITS MODIFICATION IN 1952 AND

FINALLY ITS DENUNCIATION IN 1972 WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO FACILITATE VENEZUELA'S ENTRY INTO THE ANDEAN PACT. HE STRESSED THE RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF VENEZUELAN OIL INTO THE US AND THE FACT THAT US WOULD NOT AGREE TO A "WESTERN HEMISPHERE PREFERENCE". FINALLY, HE NOTED THAT VENEZUELA DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE GSP OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974.

4. REINALDO FEGUEREDO, PRESIDENT OF ICE, SAID THAT DESPITE THE EVOLUTION OF VENEZUELA COMMERICAL POLICY FROM BILATERAL TO MULTILATERAL, ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US REMAINED NORMAL AND CORDIAL. HE STRESSED THAT COMMERCIAL RELATIONS ARE CONSTANTLY BEING MAINTAINED AT THE GOVT AND PRIVATE LEVELS THRU MISSIONS, THE EMBASSIES AND SEMINARS SUCHAS TOOK PLACE IN BOSTON AND CARABELADA. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FIGUEREDO SAID THAT RELATIONS REMAIN CORDIAL WITH THE US DESPITE THE DISCRIMINATION OF THE US TRADE ACT. ALTHOUGH THIS DISCRIMINATION HAS LITTLE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON VENEZUELA'S TRADE IT IS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE WHICH MUST BE PURSUED. HE SAID IF THE DISCRIMINATION IS NOT ELIMINATED VENEZUELA WOULD BE OBLIGED TO ACCENTUATE ITS STRATEGY OF INCREASING ITS COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD.

5. IN ANOTHER SESSION OF THE SEMINAR DR TELASCO UULGAR, DIRECTOR OF NEGOTIATIONS OF ICE SAID THAT VENEZUELA HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF GATT MEMBERSHIP. HWEVER,IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH A DECISION WOULD BE MADE FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS UNTIL VENEZUELA HAS HAD TIME TO ASSESS THE PRESENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

6. DR FRANCOIS MOANACH, DEPUTY TO FIGUEREDO SAID THAT VENEZUELA DID NOT INTEND TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF VENEZUELA'S EXCLUSION FROM GSP AT UNCTA IV. ASECIO

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